G. R. S. 58]

1873-74

Previous references.

File No. 11 of 18

191 .

(S. R.

Serial Nos. 1—

Later references.

(Enumbered)

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos. 3

Major ~~Part~~ B for Dec^r 1873

SUBJECT.

Requisition to report for the Extent of Brand in connection with the Mysore Court Fee Stamps.

Indexed

BB

W D 1351—GPB—20,000—13-12-1

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1873..

No. 5095
43.

From

MYSORE COMMISSION
Serial No.
No.
Serial No.

To The Chief Secy: to Govt
Fort Saint George

Dated 8th Decr

Despatched Do "

Reccived

Enclosures No.

General No. 5095
No. 43.

Requests to be furnished with a report, as early as possible, on the probable extent of the Stamp which has been committed with the Mysore Court Fee stamps -

Stamp Duties No. 19 of 1869

The Secy to Govt 43. Ed (.)
Madras

Sir I have the honour by direction of the Hon. C.C. to state that from the evidence recorded in the case in which the Asst Govt Surgeon has been prosecuting his introduction it would appear that one of the latter is charged inter alia with having abstracted from Govt Stamps which he frequently has occasion to use.

2. No official report has been received from the Asst Govt on this point & the first intimation received of the theft by the C.C. was through the Chairman of the Madras Presidency. It appears however that [illegible]

has framed letters to
Lieut Gen & the Surveyor
Gen Lieut Gen which
shews that in Mr Lodwick's
belief a considerable number
of Court fee stamps have
been manufactured & issued
by one of the Subordinates
& besides this that two
of dies ~~for stamps~~
~~Court stamps~~ have been
abstracted

3 The Hon. Ch. Comm has
not as time in endeavouring
so far as possible to
stop the circulation of the
stolen stamps by
prohibiting the sale of
Court fee stamps anywhere
but at the Courts &
at the Land Tax

requiring the Govt Receivers to
obtain & initial such stamps sold
by them. But it is
a question whether there
are sufficient precautions &
whether it may not be necessary
to withdraw from circulation
all the Govt. Fee stamps
of the existing form & colour
& substitute for them another
description of stamp

4. As the matter
seems to be one of great importance
the stamp revenue of the
Province being in horrible
jeopardy, the Officer
C.C. proceeds to ask the
writer the permission of H.E.

in U. the best Govt (one)
has deputed to formulate
+ advise on foreign affairs
of India a report on
the probable extent of the
fraud which has been
committed + when it first
commenced!

Copy to
J.H. 8/12/73.

9
S-76

1873.

From The Accountt General

To in the Govt of Madras
The Offg. Secretary to the
Chief Commr of Mysore

Dated 13th December.

Despatched

Received

Enclosures No.

General No.

No.

Reports for information
the facts Connected with
the fraudulent appro-
priation of stamped
papers and dies belong
ing to the Mysore Govt
which he has lately
discovered.

Govt of India

Confidential

DEPARTMENT.

No.

Fort Saint George,
Accountant General's Office,
December 13 1873.

FROM THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

TO THE Offg Secretary to the Chief Commissioner Mysore.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for your information the facts connected with the fraudulent appropriation of stamp papers & dies belonging to the Mysore Government which I have lately discovered

2 - You will perceive that I have copied out this letter myself & I beg to explain that I have done so to secure secrecy I would suggest that in corresponding with me you take similar precautions to prevent what you write becoming known to your clerks as it is impossible to say whether the persons who are charged in the Magistrate have not confederates in Mysore - The facts which have come to light would seem to show that there is a wide spread conspiracy to defraud Government here & in Mysore.

3. At the end of last month during the enquiry I was carrying on with regard to various malpractices in the Stamping department of my office it transpired that when indents for Mysore adhesive stamps+ were being carried out here it had been the habit of Byrasamy the Manager of the stamping department to take a number of extra sheets to be struck off - Thus say 1,000 sheets of any [illegible] would be struck by the under

+ Court fee labels & receipt do

1045 or some such number would be struck off - Each of these sheets contains 30 stamps so that the number suspected in each was considerable. In one instance I have reason to believe that over 100 extra sheets were suspected with stamps.

On being questioned respecting this practice the men who have been employed on Bryson work declared that the extra sheets were struck off to make up for any which might be injured in stamping or in making the holes between the stamps on each sheet which is done as you are doubtless aware by an instrument worked by the hand - They also asserted that every extra sheet not required to be used for the purpose of making up the indent to its proper proportions was burnt before the Assistant in charge -

This story is exceedingly improbable as it is not likely that so many sheets could ever be injured in the processes above referred to & from a private register kept by one of the stampers it would seem that frequently no sheets were injured at all - The 3 Assistants also who have been at various times in charge of the Stamping Department though unable apparently to speak positively appear to be of opinion that but very few sheets were burnt before them and the inference therefore is that the greater number of these extra sheets were made away with - I can however find

we shall be unable to prove the fact in a Court of Law.

7. Further I found that 2 plates of Bill Stamps containing 30 dies of 3 & 4 annas x impression 2 large embossed Stamp dies of 2 annas 1 of 35½ Rs & a master cube of 1000 Stamps are missing — When these dies were taken away it is impossible to say with certainty — They appear to have been sent down to the workmen's room to serve as masters for other Stamp dies to be made from them & never to have been returned into Stock — What use has been made of them also it is I cannot impossible to say but as the process for impressing the adhesive stamps is exceedingly easy & the paper they were impressed upon was not required to be water marked I have no doubt Iyasami & his confederates have made a large sum by uttering Stamps unprepared by themselves without authority —

x "Stamp, Bill or draft" —

8. I wrote Mr Hudson, who having always corresponded with this Dept on the subject of Stamps I thought was the proper Officer to address, advising that the Stock of Stamp Labels should be called in & cancelled & watermarked substitutes for bogus paper & that word from him that for the future light yellow is to be substituted for the present colour of Impressed Stamps & that eventually water marked paper will be used for Court fee Labels.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt Servt
R Broderick

No 92. Confidential

From Asst Secl
Madras

To Asst Secl
to the Commissioner
Mysore

Dated 13th Decr 1893

Reports discoveries
made in the Stamping
Dept of the Madras
Asst Secl's Office
of fraudulent appro-
priation of Stamp
papers & various
cases —

S-76-

13/12/1873

From Sub Collr Savantvady

To Government
Port St George.

Dated 10th December, 1873.

Despatched

Received 13th Dec, 1873.

Enclosures No. 2. Sp. C.

General No. 90.

No. 1794.

I enclose Copy of an order directing the Acc.t General Madras to report at once to this Office the probable extent of the fraud which has been committed with the Guyana Court Fee

Mr Cuffe
13-12-

Sub Collr Savantvady
No 1794
13 Dec 1873.

No. 89. Read the following letter from H. WELLESLEY, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, to the Honourable W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Bangalore, 8th December 1873, No. 5095—43:—

I have the honour, by direction of the Officiating Chief Commissioner, to observe that, from the evidence recorded in a case in which the Accountant-General, Madras, has been prosecuting his subordinates, it would appear that one of the latter is charged *inter alia* with having abstracted Mysore Court Fee Stamps, which he presumably has sold or is selling.

2. No official report has been received from the Accountant-General on this point, and the first intimation received of the theft by the Officiating Chief Commissioner was through the columns of the Madras newspapers. It appears, however, that some demi-official correspondence has passed between the Accountant-General and the Mysore Deputy Accountant-General, which shows that in Mr. Lodwick's belief a considerable number of Mysore Court Fee Stamps have been surreptitiously obtained by one of his subordinates from time to time, and, besides this, that two dies have been abstracted.

3. The Officiating Chief Commissioner has lost no time in endeavouring, as far as possible, to stop the circulation of the stolen stamps by prohibiting the sale of Court Fee Stamps anywhere but at the Courts, and at the same time requiring the Court Nazirs to initial each stamp sold by him. But it is a question whether these are sufficient precautions, and whether it may not be necessary to withdraw from circulation all Court Fee Stamps of the existing form and colour, and substitute for them another description of stamps.

4. As the matter appears to be one of great importance, the Stamp Revenue of the province being in possible jeopardy, the Officiating Chief Commissioner ventures to ask that, with the permission of His Excellency in Council, the Accountant-General may be requested to furnish officially, and as soon as possible, a report on the probable extent of the fraud which has been committed, and when it first commenced.

No. 90. ORDER THEREON, 10th December 1873, No. 1794.

The Accountant-General will report at once to the Mysore authorities on the state of the case, and keep them fully informed of its progress.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Chief Commissioner of Mysore.
,, Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated December, 10th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 10th December 1873, No. 1794.

DECEMBER.
Nos. 89-90.

Mysore Court Fee Stamps.—The Accountant General directed to report at once to the Mysore authorities on the probable extent of the fraud which has been committed with these stamps, and to keep them fully informed of the progress of the case.